

# AMERICAN EMBASSY'S NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW

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## Today's Top Stories

1. President Ouattara says 2012 brings hope as the country will address major challenges
2. DNA tests show remains not of missing reporter
3. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit triggers mixed reaction in the local press
4. The trial of the former heads of the cocoa and coffee body adjourns
5. A new pro-opposition paper to start next week

### 1. President Ouattara says 2012 brings hope as the country will address major challenges

President Alassane Ouattara yesterday received New Year's wishes from the diplomatic corps accredited in Cote d'Ivoire and from the country's top military brass and religious dignitaries. The ceremony made news in most pro-government papers, especially in ***Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4 - 6)** which noted that in his address, the Ivorian leader underscored that 2012 is a year of hope for the country which went through ordeals last year. "We are now embarked on a reconciliation process and we are rebuilding the country," he reportedly said. According to the daily, President Ouattara recommitted the government to addressing the country's major challenges, including taking the necessary measures to foster homeland security, promote investment and foster national cohesion.

Still on the issue, ***Le Patriote* (p. 2)** noted that U.S. Ambassador Phillip Carter III attended the event. Speaking to journalists, the U.S. envoy reportedly said he remains upbeat on the country's recovery. "My feeling is that there is room for hope... the international community remains committed to helping the country regain its leadership in the sub-region and also to supporting President Ouattara in implementing his programs."

### 2. DNA tests show remains not of missing reporter

Remains unearthed last week in the western city of Issia are not those of missing French reporter Guy-Andre Kieffer according to DNA results released yesterday. Providing details, **Soir Info (p. 4)** noted that the announcement was made by a lawyer close to the case, Mr. Alexis Gublin. "Samples of the body sent to France for identification by DNA tests were not conclusive," he said, adding however that the "investigation will continue."

For opposition papers, particularly **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 5)** and **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)**, this update is a setback for the ruling regime. An article in **Le Nouveau Courrier** alleged that French prosecutor Patrick Ramael is not fair enough in his investigations.

### 3. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit triggers mixed comments in the local press

Most dailies reported on the forthcoming visit by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Tagged as a move likely to foster the relationship between Cote d'Ivoire and the United States, **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 2)** noted that security issues, especially in connection with threats posed by the Al Qaida branch in the Maghreb and economic issues are likely to be high on the agenda of the visit.

**Soir Info (p. 7)** carried a similar account, highlighting that the U.S. intends to expand its multi-faceted relationships with Cote d'Ivoire which, according to insiders, is a "strategic country" for the Obama administration. The move, the paper said, is also to counter France's hegemony in the country's economy. Secretary Clinton's visit was arranged during the Ivorian leader's recent trip to the U.S., the paper said.

However, for opposition papers, such as **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 5)** Secretary Clinton is coming to "take her share after the job." The daily alleged that the visit, which comes a few weeks after the U.S. advised its citizens to avoid traveling to Cote d'Ivoire, is meant to "right a wrong" in the cocoa sector where American businessmen are being left aside by a regime it helped gained power.

Similarly, **Aujourd'hui (p. 3)** noted that there is nothing to expect from this visit.

### 4. The trial of former heads of the coffee and cocoa body adjourned

According to **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p.3)**, an Abidjan court has adjourned the trial of the former heads of the Ivorian coffee and cocoa body who are being accused of mismanagement and embezzlement. The date of the new trial of the accused, who are currently on bail, is schedule for February 16, the paper said.

### 5. New pro-opposition paper to start next week

According to **Aujourd'hui (p. 3)**, a new pro-opposition paper is to be launched next week. Called Lg Infos, the new general information daily will feature in-depth investigations and political interviews.

Fraternite Matin	State-owned daily newspaper	23,970
L'Intelligent d'Abidjan	Privately-owned daily, leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara	7,000
L'Inter	Independent daily	20,000

Nord-Sud Quotidien	Daily close to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro	10,000
Notre Voie	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	15,000
Le Nouveau Courrier	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	10,000
Le Nouveau Reveil	Daily close to the PDCI-RDA, the party of Former President Henri Konan Bedie	17,000
Le Patriote	Daily close to the RDR, the party of President Alassane Ouattara	17,000
RTI TV	State broadcaster	
Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000

*NOTE: Newspaper circulation figures represent the number of copies printed, not actual sales.*